

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows. The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions.

1-3. (Canceled).

4. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a CATERPILLER 11.3 polypeptide comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:17 or SEQ ID NO:19;

(b) ~~a nucleotide sequence having at least 95% sequence similarity to SEQ ID NO:19; and~~

(e) —a nucleotide sequence that differs from the nucleotide sequences of (a) or (b) above due to the degeneracy of the genetic code.

5-19. (Canceled).

20. (Previously Presented) An isolated cell comprising the isolated nucleic acid of Claim 4.

21-26. (Canceled).

27. (Withdrawn-Currently amended) A method of modulating the cellular activity of a CATERPILLER 11.3 polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid of claim 4 comprising introducing into a cell a compound that modulates the activity of the polypeptide in an amount effective to modulate the activity of the polypeptide in the cell, wherein the activity of the polypeptide that is measured is inhibition of Myd88-induced NF- $\kappa$ B induction and/or NIK-induced NF- $\kappa$ B induction.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 27, wherein the compound is an isolated nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 27, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of an antisense oligonucleotide and a siRNA that targets the nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 27, wherein the compound is an antibody that binds to the polypeptide.

31. (Withdrawn-Currently amended) A method of modulating cellular inflammatory responses, comprising introducing into a cell a compound that modulates the activity of a CATERPILLER 11.3 polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid of claim 4, wherein the activity of the polypeptide that is measured is inhibition of Myd88-induced NF- $\kappa$ B induction and/or NIK-induced NF- $\kappa$ B induction, and said compound is introduced in an amount effective to modulate cellular inflammatory responses.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 31, wherein the compound is an isolated nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 31, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of an antisense oligonucleotide and a siRNA that targets the nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 31, wherein the compound is an antibody that binds to the polypeptide.

35. (Withdrawn-Currently amended) A method of modulating apoptosis, comprising introducing into a cell a compound that modulates the activity of a CATERPILLER 11.3 polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid of claim 4, wherein the activity of the polypeptide that

is measured is inhibition of Myd88-induced NF- $\kappa$ B induction and/or NIK-induced NF- $\kappa$ B induction, and said compound is introduced in an amount effective to modulate apoptosis.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 35, wherein the compound is an isolated nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 35, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of an antisense oligonucleotide and a siRNA that targets the nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 35, wherein the compound is an antibody that binds to the polypeptide.

39. (Withdrawn-Currently amended) A method of modulating Toll-like receptor activity, comprising introducing into a cell a compound that modulates the activity of a CATERPILLER 11.3 polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid of claim 4, wherein the activity of the polypeptide that is measured is inhibition of Myd88-induced NF- $\kappa$ B induction and/or NIK-induced NF- $\kappa$ B induction, and said compound is introduced in an amount effective to modulate Toll-like receptor activity.

40. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 39, wherein the compound is an isolated nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide.

41. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 39, wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of an antisense oligonucleotide and a siRNA that targets the nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide.

42. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 39, wherein the compound is an antibody that binds to the polypeptide.

43. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 27, wherein the cell is a cultured cell.

44. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 27, wherein the cell is a cell *in vivo*.

45. (Withdrawn-Previously presented) A method of identifying a compound that binds to a CATERPILLER 11.3 polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid of claim 4 comprising:  
contacting the polypeptide with a test compound under conditions whereby binding between the polypeptide and the test compound can be detected; and  
detecting binding between the polypeptide and the test compound.

46. (Withdrawn-Currently amended) A method of identifying a compound that modulates the activity of a CATERPILLER 11.3 polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid of claim 4 comprising:  
contacting the polypeptide with a test compound under conditions whereby modulation of the activity of the polypeptide can be detected; and  
detecting modulation of the activity of the polypeptide, wherein the activity of the polypeptide that is measured is inhibition of Myd88-induced NF- $\kappa$ B induction and/or NIK-induced NF- $\kappa$ B induction.

47. (Withdrawn-Currently amended) A method of identifying a compound that can modulate inflammatory responses, comprising:  
contacting a CATERPILLER 11.3 polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid of claim 4 with a test compound under conditions whereby modulation of the activity of the polypeptide can be detected, wherein the activity of the polypeptide that is measured is inhibition of Myd88-induced NF- $\kappa$ B induction and/or NIK-induced NF- $\kappa$ B induction; and  
detecting modulation of the activity of the polypeptide, thereby identifying a compound that can modulate inflammatory responses.

48. (Withdrawn-Currently amended) A method of identifying a compound that can modulate apoptosis, comprising:

contacting a CATERPILLER 11.3 polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid of claim 4 with a test compound under conditions whereby modulation of the activity of the polypeptide can be detected, wherein the activity of the polypeptide that is measured is inhibition of Myd88-induced NF- $\kappa$ B induction and/or NIK-induced NF- $\kappa$ B induction; and

detecting modulation of the activity of the polypeptide, thereby identifying a compound that can modulate apoptosis.

49. (Withdrawn-Currently amended) A method of identifying a compound that can modulate the Toll-like receptor pathway, comprising:

contacting a CATERPILLER 11.3 polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid of claim 4 with a test compound under conditions whereby modulation of the activity of the polypeptide can be detected, wherein the activity of the polypeptide that is measured is inhibition of Myd88-induced NF- $\kappa$ B induction and/or NIK-induced NF- $\kappa$ B induction; and

detecting modulation of the activity of the polypeptide, thereby identifying a compound that can modulate the Toll-like receptor pathway.

50. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 45, wherein the method is carried out in a cell comprising the polypeptide.

51. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 50, wherein the cell comprises an isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide.

52. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 51, wherein the cell is stably transformed with the isolated nucleic acid.

53. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 45, wherein the method is carried out as a cell-free assay.

54. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 45, wherein the method is carried out in a transgenic non-human mammal comprising an isolated nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide.

55-56. (Canceled).

57. (Previously Presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 4 encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:18.

58. (Previously Presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 4 encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:20.

59-60. (Canceled).